

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sun, April 24	9 am Deeping the life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, May 1	9 am Worship and Ministry and, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, May 8	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, May 15	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, May 22	9 am Deeping the life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship 5:30 pm Szabo/Huff wedding
Tues, May 24	Deadline for June Newsletter
Sun, May 29	9 am extended worship on the fifth First day of the month 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, June 5	9 am Worship and Ministry, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly Meeting for Worship 10:30 am each First Day,. Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings., Midweek Meetings for Worship are held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, in the Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford.

Tuesday, 12:00–4:30 PM: Quiet Tuesday at the Meetinghouse

In this Issue

In this issue, besides the usual business meeting minutes you will find our answer to this month's query, a thoughtful article on another pathway to community, the Meeting's response to last month's query and a request from the Nominating Committee.

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, May 24.

Month's Query

Query #5 *Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?*

Minutes

4th Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

April 10, 2016

Reading:

Love was the first motion, and thence a concern arose.... and when, by reason of much wet weather, traveling was more difficult than usual at that season, I looked upon it as a more favorable opportunity to season my mind... As mine eye was to the great Father of Mercies, humbly desiring to learn his will concerning me, I was made quiet and content. *-John Woolman*

As the above quotation from John Woolman suggests, we do not undertake action lightly. There is a good order to the sequence of a concern arising (from love), seasoning, seeking "his will," and presenting the leading to individual Friends, to an appropriate committee, to a monthly meeting for worship with a concern for business, to wider circles as deemed appropriate to the leading, and eventually to the Yearly Meeting.

- taken from the *Policies and Procedures Handbook of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, Preparation and Seasoning of Business*

- Friends approved Dave MacInnes to act as Recording Clerk for today's meeting.
- Minute of appreciation for the four years of service of Hannah Logan Morris as Recording Clerk for FFM
The Meeting would like to thank Hannah Logan Morris for her four faithful years of service as Recording Clerk. We appreciate her recording skills, attention to details and good

humor over the course of many business meetings.

Business laid over from last month.

- Since friends recognize and support leadings, Friendship Friends Meeting now minutes its support of our member Lloyd Lee Wilson in his teaching ministry and in his travel to do this work with Deborah Fisch.

Judy Williams requested to become a member of the Meeting. Her request was passed on to the Care and Counsel Committee for action

Report from **Care and Counsel Committee**

1. The clearness committee for marriage under the care of the meeting enthusiastically approves the marriage of Juliet Smith and Isaiah Unger planned for May 28, 2016
2. Care and Counsel asks for the approval of the meeting for the following people to serve on the arrangements committee for their marriage: Bonnie Parsons, Gay Bowles, Judy Purvis, Jim and Jane Fernandes, Stephen Holland and Hilary McCormick.
3. The committee is seeking advice from the meeting on the best way to move forward with a request for a change in restrooms door signage.

Points 1 and 2 were approved. For point 3 Friends are easy with having just rest rooms in the meetinghouse. House and Grounds committee is directed to remove the current signs and replace them with "rest room". The Clerk will take the suggestion to have a forum on the issues of LGBT and Transgender issues to the calendar coordinator.

The following report from **Peace & Social Concerns Committee** was presented and accepted.

The Peace and Social Concerns Meeting met on April 3, 2016 after the threshing session on cosponsoring a refugee family on March 31, 2016.

The committee decided to continue the leading to co-sponsor a refugee family and is in unity in moving forward with this process in the following ways:

1. Holding a second threshing session on April 17th at 9 AM. The first threshing session was informational with a guest speaker while the next one will address any concerns members may have about co-sponsoring a refugee family.
2. Finding a core group of people who are willing to commit time and energy to this project. Aleks Babic and Rachel Knight are willing to work together as leaders. Other volunteers are Sheri Grace, Bonnie Parsons, Raleigh Bailey, Yessica Vazquez and Vickie Dithane. Yessica and Vickie are from the New Garden Friends Refugee Project since the meeting had too many volunteers.
3. Working with the African Service Coalition (ASC) as a co-sponsorship. We would not be on our own. The ASC will be responsible for obtaining housing, finding employment, all legal matters, and getting children into school.
4. Deciding how to raise an estimate of \$4,500 that an average family needs. However, we can still be co-sponsors without giving financial aid.
5. Educating the members of our Meeting by sending out refugee information in the next newsletter.

- The Meeting is in unity to support the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee in going forward with this process regarding the co-sponsorship of a refugee family.

The following reports from Organizations supported by Friendship Monthly Meeting were presented

School of the Spirit

The School of the Spirit Ministry is a ministry of prayer and learning. For 25 years, the Ministry has provided programs to Friends who seek to grow and deepen their spiritual lives and to listen to the Inward Teacher. The two primary offerings of the Ministry are the two year program "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer" and weekend long Contemplative Retreats. Numerous Friendship meeting Friends have participated in these programs and/or have served the Ministry in other ways. Currently serving the Ministry are: Carole Treadway as elder to the Board and as Contemplative Retreat leader; Ray Treadway as Treasurer; Judy Purvis and Susan Wilson as Board members. Betty Poynton is a participant in the current "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer" class. The School of the Spirit Ministry is grateful for the financial support of Friendship meeting and the long relationship it has enjoyed with a number of meeting Friends.

Pathways

Status of Pathways project with recommendations

As a meeting, we began providing and serving meals at the Pathways Center, (a part of Greensboro Urban Ministry) 4 times a year. This began two years ago.

Aside from providing meals, many Friends have contributed money, bedding, kitchen supplies,

and items for children and personal care products for the residents there.

We have made a small impact by giving the center the needed bowls, plates and silverware to serve meals without using disposables. We have involved many people in FFM by inviting contributions of casseroles, fruits, desserts, supplies. We have shown up, provided music and magic, sidewalk chalk activities and jump roping fun. We also gave gifts of grocery gift cards in time for Christmas this past year.

Planning and organizing these events takes a bit of time, energy and coordination. Our meeting has recently been busy with many other activities. On a personal level, I am finding that being co clerk of our meeting has required energy and focus that was previously available to other things.

1. I am proposing that this particular service from FFM to the Greensboro Urban Ministry be set aside for now. I will continue my volunteer work at their emergency assistance program, because I believe in their mission to the community.

2. Although the line item on our budget was called Outreach at the beginning, it was later changed to be called Pathways project. I am proposing that we change the designation of that line item back to Outreach and use that money for any kind of outreach that the meeting is led to unite with.

- The Meeting asks that we publicize in our weekly and monthly newsletters our need to find another person or persons to take over the coordination of the Pathways Project. We would like to continue the service and to encourage other leaders to step up. We are appreciative of the efforts of everyone involved in this project, especially Susan Carlyle, the current leader.

Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of the Americas

Mission

Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. Connecting Friends • Crossing Cultures • Changing Lives

Purpose

The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends.

Organization

The work of the Friends World Committee is carried out by four sections: Americas, Africa, Europe-Middle East, and Asia-West Pacific, as well as by the World Office. The work of the Section of the Americas actively continues as described in the July 2015 report.

***new* World Plenary**

The 2016 Friends World Committee World Plenary (International Representatives Meeting) was held in Pisac, Peru, from January 19 to 27, 2016. More than 320 Friends from 37 countries, 77 Yearly Meetings, eight independent Monthly Meetings, and two worship groups, speaking dozens of languages, met to consider the theme "Living the transformation: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19)." Of importance, attenders from the Southern Hemisphere – particularly from Kenya, Peru, and Bolivia -- were present in large numbers. Speakers emphasized the process of transformation. Friends met together in home groups, workshops, and consultations, where

two or three languages were spoken. There were opportunities to pray, sing, ask difficult questions, learn, laugh, and cry together. Many young Friends attended and were deeply involved. An important minute on *Sustainability* was approved as seen in the publication *BeFriending Creation*. The concluding Epistle from these sessions states that "We are one in the spirit of God which does not wash away or hide our differences, but allows us to celebrate them and enables us to move beyond the spiritual boundaries that may separate us. We are able to do this by coming together in worship where, while its form may be unfamiliar, God was present throughout."

new Elizabeth Rolfe and Kristin Olson-Kennedy attended the World Plenary as representatives from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. Wes Daniels was also present. A video from the Plenary by Rachel Guaraldi can be viewed on the WEB at <https://vimeo.com/153757538>.

Financial support is needed to carry out the work of FWCC.

Treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

Fourth Month Report for Third Month Income and Expenses in 2016

Income in March 2016 totaled \$1,736.76 with \$805.00 to the General Fund and \$931.76 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in March 2016 totaled \$301,554.15. The operating expenses totaled \$291.15 including \$243 for Religious Education plus other minor expenses. No supporting contributions were paid. Meeting House expenses totaled \$344.50 primarily for utilities.

The Treasurer received correspondence in March from Irene McGee, Kembra Howdeshell, and Carolyn C. Witman. On 3/29, the Treasurer met with members of the fundraising committee to coordinate transfers of information so that pledges can be tracked and donors can be thanked.

New Building Fund Report for March 2016:

March starting balance		\$350,557
<u>Income</u>		
Contributions from members/ attenders (pledges)	\$770	
Other contributions	\$150	
Interest income	\$ 11	
Total Income	\$931	
<u>Expenses</u>		
Purchase of lots from Friends Homes	\$300,900	
Cashier's check	\$10	
Total Expenses	\$300,918	
March ending balance		\$50,571

The following report from **Fundraising Committee** was presented and accepted

1. The committee will begin fundraising in earnest in May
2. They will be working with the treasurer for reporting percentage of pledges received and how close we are to the goal.

The **Meetinghouse Planning Committee** Report was presented and accepted

The Meetinghouse Planning committee has been moving forward with gathering information about the newly acquired properties from Friends Homes. For example, members of the House and Grounds committee

met with an arborist to assess the condition of the trees on the new lots and shared this information with our committee. We have also hired the same surveyor who surveyed the meeting's existing lot to create a survey of the two new lots and combine these into one document. The estimate for this work is \$2,000-\$2,200. This is a necessary step for the architects to begin to create new site plans that incorporate all three lots. We have initiated the 811 utility marking process to show water and gas lines.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Another Pathway to Community Building

What draws folks to a spiritual community is, more than anything, "community." Yes, "spiritual" is important, but it's not what provides group cohesion. Yes, the spiritual *values* of Quakers — as expressed in our testimonies — do unite us, but the spiritual *beliefs* of Friends in our Meeting are quite diverse. What's more, one can be spiritual in solitude, and sitting silently together is not necessarily spiritual — we can sit silently with others at a bus station or in a dentist's waiting room.

The community part comes about and is strengthened by social interaction — how we relate to one another and, especially, how we work together. We can relate to some degree in conversation, but relationships are best established and nurtured by working together. To some extent, we do this in our committee work where individuals in small groups with specific purposes interact to support the life, health, and infrastructure of the Meeting. But the best way to build community is work that draws participation from the general diverse body of our Friends meeting.

One example of this important work that nurtures community has been the Pathways project. Dozens of Friends participated in many ways using their talents and energy and interacting to help people in need. Friends of all ages — preteen to nonagenarian — took part in this effort and, in the process, we learned much about one another and strengthened our Friendship bonds.

This intergenerational group learned to cooperate, collaborate, negotiate, and share tasks with one another and we enjoyed good conversation. (We call this "fellowship.") While a number of Friends have lamented that this project has been suspended until new leadership comes forth, we still have opportunities for this important type of community-building work. They are called "Work Days."

At our recent work day, diverse Friends cooperated, collaborated, negotiated, shared tasks, and enjoyed good conversation — fellowship. The one thing lacking was intergenerational diversity. One Friend estimated that the average age of the group was 67.5. Indeed, of the fifteen or so workers, only three were younger than sixty. What may come as a surprise to you is that many of the tasks performed at work days do not require seven, eight, or nine decades of life experience! Many of the tasks could be performed by teens and pre-teens. Shucks! There's even work that Friends of the young and tender age of thirty- or forty-something could take on.

Friends are generous and always willing to share. The older Friends will be happy share the work load of stewardship with the younger folks. I encourage all to participate in the next work day. Join us in community.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Carlyle

May birthday

Herold, Sierra (Granddaughter of Anne Cassebaum) 5/3/98

Each month our responses to the query of the month will appear in the newsletter. The responses were created at several Meeting workshops this year.

4. Do we assume our rightful share in the expenses of our Meeting? Do we regard our time, our talents, and our possessions as given us in trust, and do we use them freely for the needs of others?

Since the Meeting has agreed to go ahead with a new meeting room and renovations everyone is being asked to consider increasing their yearly donation to help raise money for new facilities. The Meeting children have come up with ways to raise money for the new building. Many members have given time and energy to help clean and get ready to sell a donated house. Through reports at business meetings and information sessions all have felt a part of this effort. We have served the local community throughout the year. We support various Friend's organizations and other local community needs that come to our attention. It has been obvious from our committee work and other commitments that we consider our time, talents and possessions as given to us in trust. We are grateful to be able to say that contributions to the meeting have enabled us to meet all of our obligations.

From the Nominating Committee

In our 4th month meeting for business the continuation of the Pathways project was considered. If it is to continue, new leadership will be needed, as current leader is stepping down. Nominating Committee invites those who are willing to take leadership in this committee to come forward and let them know. Susan Carlyle has a simple procedure written out as a guideline for anyone led to step up to this project on behalf of Friendship Friends Meeting.



The large dogwood in the Meetinghouse backyard says its spring

Photo by Dave

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Sidney Kitchens, Clerk
Stephen Holland, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Membership Recorder
Hannah Logan Morris, Recording Clerk

Susan Carlyle, Co-clerk
Ray Treadway, Assistant Treasurer
Miriam Biber-Peterson Assistant
Membership Recorder:
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor

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